

THE DEADLY DAMP.

A Fatal Explosion in a Pennsylvania Coal Mine.

One Hundred and Ten Men Instantly Killed or Suffocated—Only One Escaped From the Deadly Pit—Harrowing Scenes.

YOUNGWOOD, Pa., Jan. 28.—The darkest page in the history of the coke regions was written yesterday, 110 names of dead miners being enrolled on it. The mine is on fire and fifty bodies will never be recovered.

Early in the morning a merry shift of miners at Mammoth mine No. 1, of the Frick Coke Company, went down into the shaft, glad to be on the roll for another day's wages, as they were becoming far too few during the late depression in the coke trade.

A few minutes after 9 o'clock a faint puff of dust rolled from the mine, but it carried with it over 100 souls into eternity. There was no sound, no shock and nothing to show that anything was wrong but the faint cloud of dust.

Soon the worst began to be feared and a hasty investigation showed that the puff of dust meant a fearful disaster, even the Dunbar explosion being nothing as compared to the disaster at the Mammoth mines.

At the hour named the cottages of the miners, scattered over the hills, presented the usual scenes incident to the busy housewives' duties about the place. Many of the cottages faced the entrance to the mine, and when the unusual stir about the mouth of the pit was noticed women and girls flew to the place with shawls hastily thrown over their heads, and with white faces, which grew whiter when it was seen that many willing men started down the pit but that none came up.

The story of the disaster is easily told. An unexpected flow of gas was struck and the miners working in the headings connected with Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were all killed.

Superintendent Keighly, who was mine inspector in the Dunbar district when the horror occurred, was at the mine when the explosion took place. He immediately called for volunteers, and gathering a few about him descended the shaft.

When the volunteers entered the mines a sight impossible to picture met them. Bank cars, mules and men were piled in a compact mass against the ribs or walls of coal, and not a living thing was in the wreckage. The mass was almost as solid as the coal itself so terrific was the force of the explosion. This obstruction was removed with difficulty.

Then the rescuers entered a chamber of horrors. The first object they discovered after leaving the main entry was a gum boot. In it was the lamp of a miner. Next they found a human head, but nowhere in sight was the trunk which had borne it. After a walk of some distance they found the trunk, the ragged neck with the oozing blood from it telling the story of the appalling explosion.

Working their way on, the band found the bodies strewn along the gangway. One unfortunate met death while on his knees in prayer, with his hands clasped and his eyes uplifted. The headless trunk did not move the rescuers, nor were their emotions betrayed by the shapeless head itself, but the sight of the corpse in the attitude of prayer brought tears to every eye. It was a pathetic picture.

Dead bodies were brought up every few minutes and the crowd at the shaft mouth simply fell back to allow the men carrying the stretchers room to pass. Every corpse was covered and no one even ventured to inquire whose body it was, for they knew every one in that part of the mine at the time of the explosion was dead.

One hundred and ten men were employed in that part of the mine in which the explosion occurred. Not more than fifty men were killed by the explosion. The others were overcome by the fire damp and while some of the bodies are horribly torn, burned and mutilated, others were found with their teeth clenched on the iron rail of the pit road, others with faces plunged into the water and not a few upon their knees as if engaged in prayer.

Up to midnight sixty bodies had been recovered. Every five minutes a corpse would be brought to the surface and it would pass through the line of watchers without comment, save the expression, "Another one." A notable feature of the crowd at the shaft was the absence of women. They had returned to their little whitewashed homes, for they knew all hope was gone.

The only man who escaped from the fatal mine was Mine Boss Eaton. Ex-Mine Inspector Keighly, the superintendent of the fatal shaft, is nearly distracted. It is a singular fact that his experience in the Hill Farm disaster resulted in his tendering his resignation as mine inspector.

World's Fair Earth Turned.
CHICAGO, Jan. 28.—The first stake was driven and the first spadeful of earth turned on the lake front opposite Harrison street in connection with the World's Fair yesterday morning. The digging was begun for the laying of the foundation of a temporary building to be used by the chief of construction and his assistants during the erection of the Fair buildings proper. Some of the property owners whose residences front on Lake Front park threaten to bring injunction proceedings to stop the work.

Paper Mill Explosion.
STERLING, Ill., Jan. 28.—The Rock Falls paper mills was blown up by an explosion of "bleach" at 6:30 last evening. The mills were demolished. Two men, John Meyers and Alonzo Bell, have been taken from the ruins dead and three or four other workmen are missing and are supposed to be in the ruins.

The accident happened just at the hour the day and night forces were changing places, and as many were coming and going, it will be impossible to know who is missing until daylight.

SENATOR PEPPER.

The Kansas Legislature Elects Judge Pepper to Succeed Senator Ingalls.

TOPKA, Kan., Jan. 28.—At noon today the Senate and House met in joint convention to complete the election of United States Senator. In joint session William A. Pepper received 101 votes, John J. Ingalls 38, C. W. Blair 3, Lucien Baker 1, E. N. Morrill 1 and Senator Kelly 1. Senator Ellison voted for Morrill, Senator Rush for Kelly, Senator Carroll, of Leavenworth, for Blair, Senators King and Wheeler for Pepper and the other 33 Senators for Ingalls. The House gave Pepper 99 votes, Ingalls 23, Blair 2 and Baker 1. Several Demo-



crats voted for Pepper. Lieutenant-Governor Felt declared Judge Pepper elected United States Senator for six years. The joint session then dissolved. The Senators had no sooner departed than Pepper was called for. He came to the Speaker's rostrum amid cheers and said: "It would hardly be proper to address this body as the joint convention of the Legislature. I see before me representatives of all the people. We, the people, have commenced the building of a distinct and separate political organization. Land is the common property of men, and labor is the common lot of men. Transportation is a medium of their communication and money is the lubricating oil. On these principles we will erect a grand party. We are opposed to a National banking system. We believe in the Government, which is simply the agent of the people, issuing money direct to them. We oppose taxing one industry to support another. We believe that free trade, absolute, is often the best form of protection. We believe in distributing the burdens of taxation equally among the people so far as we are able to do so. "In short, we believe in the people ruling."

Continuing his speech, Mr. Pepper said that he read in the Topka Capital a statement to the effect that the Democrats will take no credit to themselves for Pepper's election. That was the truth, he said, but he wanted to say that when he left the Republican party he left it for good.

The Republican party, he said, had lost its power for good. A new party was needed. The people asked for the unlimited coinage of silver and the Republican party told them that they did not know what they wanted. They asked for tariff reduction and the McKinley bill was given them.

"I joined in the rebellion," he said, "and my election to-day is the result of it."

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.
William Alfred Pepper was born on a farm in Cumberland county, Pa., on September 16, 1831. His grandfather, William Pepper, was a soldier in the war of 1812. His boyhood was spent there until he was nineteen years of age. He applied all his savings to acquiring books and at that age had a library of 100 volumes. From the age of 15 to 19 he taught school a portion of each year, principally in the winter months. At 19 he was attracted to California, where he spent nearly two years in the mines, with little pecuniary success, but as a young man of ability so attracted public attention as to be tendered a nomination to the Legislature, which he was compelled to decline on account of his age.

In 1852 he returned to his old home and his pursuits as a farmer and teacher, but, in 1854, being married, he emigrated to St. Joseph, Mo., where he spent six years as a farmer. In 1860 he was removed to Morgan county, Mo., where he remained teaching and farming until the breaking out of the war, when he removed to Warren county, Ill., and enlisted as a private in company F, Eighty-third regiment Illinois volunteer infantry. He was soon promoted to a Lieutenant. He participated in the second battle at Fort Donelson, the battle of Nashville and other engagements and was mustered out at the close of the war. On account of his peculiar business qualifications he was selected as judge advocate for the trial of civil offenses and was afterward selected by General Thomas as depot quartermaster of the engineer's department at Nashville and had control of the receipt and shipment of all the engineer's supplies for the military division of the Mississippi under General Sherman.

On being mustered out of service, the young Lieutenant settled at Clarksville, Tenn., where he practiced law from 1865 to 1870. From Tennessee early in 1870 he emigrated to Kansas and located in Wilson county, pursuing his profession, and in December of the same year purchased the Wilson County Courier which he conducted for three years. In 1874 he was elected Senator from Wilson and Montgomery Counties on the Republican ticket. He was chairman of the Centennial Committee and Committee on Public Printing and an active, useful member of the Judiciary Committee.

In 1875 Judge Pepper removed to Coffeyville, established the Coffeyville Journal and continued the practice of law. He was originally a Democrat, but on the organization of the Republican party became a Republican. Some time ago Judge Pepper joined the Farmers' Alliance and became devoted to the principles of the new party which has come to power in Kansas. For ten years he has edited the Kansas Farmer.

Judge Pepper is a tall, slender, thin-faced man with a long, dark beard. He has the step but not the erect form of a soldier. A frequent cough betokens a delicacy of health. He is the author of a book entitled "The Way Out," advocating the lending of money by the Government to the people.

Campbell's Body Found.
CHICAGO, Jan. 29.—About two months ago Hon. B. H. Campbell, ex-United States Marshal for this district, while suffering from an attack of pneumonia, left his house in the night and mysteriously disappeared. This morning his body was discovered in the river near Rush street.

Captain Casati's work on Africa is shortly to appear in an English edition. The captain goes largely into the subject of American products and what soils are best suited for cotton, sugar, etc., and it is believed his book will create a boom in African commerce.

SUDDENLY CALLED.

Secretary Windom Dies Suddenly at a Banquet in New York.

The Secretary of the Treasury Makes a Speech in Response to a Sentiment and Sinks Into Death—Futile Efforts at Resuscitation.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Hon. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, died at 10:05 o'clock last night in the banquet hall at Delmonico's, where he was a guest of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation. He had been the first toast of the evening and he had finished his response and resumed his seat, when he suddenly swooned and died almost immediately. Every effort to restore him was made, but in vain. He died of heart disease.

The great assemblage at once dissolved. Mr. Windom had been the only speaker and the sentiment to which he responded was "Our Country's Prosperity—Dependent Upon its Instruments of Commerce."

When death made its appearance the New York Board of Trade and Transportation was enjoying its nineteenth annual dinner and the great hall was bright with light and color. In the early evening the banqueters gathered in the reception parlor of Delmonico's and there welcomed their guests and friends. Perhaps most prominent were Secretaries Windom and Tracy, of the Treasury and Navy respectively.

Mr. Windom, dignified of mien as usual, was not the less genial. His face was bright, his smile quick and his remark and repartee were apt and keen. His meeting with ex-Secretary of State Bayard was pleasing and the informal gathering of guests and their semi-formal reception were pleasantly preparatory to the banquet. Then all formed a procession to the banquet hall where members and guests became seated, the members at tables upon the floor and the guests at a long table upon a raised platform.

The dinner, which began at 6 o'clock, was completed shortly after 9 o'clock and Mr. Windom was introduced by Judge Arnoux, who acted as toastmaster, and arose to speak, being the first orator of the evening. He responded to the toast: "Our Country's Prosperity—Dependent Upon its Instruments of Commerce."

Mr. Windom finished his speech at 9:55 o'clock. It was remarked that he was reading it off hurriedly from the printed copy, going faster and faster as he neared the end, and at the last he requested the audience not to applaud.

Then as the speaker finished and was standing erect something was seen to be the matter. For a moment he stood silent, while the banqueters, equally silent, watched him. It was a moment that no one who was present will ever forget. Then he sat down quietly, too quietly, many thought, in his seat.

Toastmaster Judge Arnoux arose to introduce ex-Secretary of State Bayard as the next speaker. He began a short speech but had not proceeded far when Mr. Windom gave a short, sharp moan of anguish and fell back in his chair. His face grew purple. His lower limbs stiffened and stretched out of their own accord apparently under the table.

A cry went up from those sitting near the guest's table. "Look, look at Mr. Windom!" Every eye was turned toward the man whose voice had just ceased, and at the rear of the hall many stood up and many echoed the cry.

Mr. Windom was falling to the floor. His face was ghastly, and a cry of horror arose from the late festive banqueters. There was an immediate rush on the part of all toward Mr. Windom's chair, but several doctors who were present drove the others back.

Dr. S. A. Robinson bent down and making a close examination of the prostrate form discovered that the heart was yet beating, and with the assistance of Judge Truax, Captain Snow and one or two others lifted Mr. Windom to his feet.

For six minutes the electric shocks were applied incessantly, but without success. Then the Secretary was pronounced dead by Drs. Robinson and Durant.

BIOGRAPHICAL.
William Windom, late Secretary of the Treasury, was born in Belmont county, O., May 10, 1827. His parents had migrated to that region from Virginia. He was brought up on a farm, was educated in the academy at Mount Vernon, studied law and was admitted to practice in 1850. He became prosecuting attorney for Knox county in 1852. In 1853 he settled in Winona, Minn., joining the Republican party he gained a reputation as a political orator and in 1858 went to Congress. He was a member of the House of Representatives for ten years, serving on the Committees on Public Lands and Expenditures and on the Special Committee on the Rebellion. He was for three years chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. Windom was appointed United States Senator in 1879 to fill an unexpired term, and was afterward elected for a new term. In 1881 he resigned on being selected by President Garfield for the post of Secretary of the Treasury. He resigned when Vice-President Arthur succeeded to the Presidency and engaged in railroad and financial enterprises, making his home principally in New York till he was recalled by President Harrison to his former post.

Since his resumption of the duties of the office of Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Windom had been constantly before the public because of the late unsettled financial affairs of the country. He had shown himself equal to all emergencies, and was found never to be wanting on occasions that demanded prompt and decisive action. In the time of Wall street's latest trouble he acted with such judgment that the "street" was saved from a panic and many firms from ruin.

Disastrous Boiler Explosion.
MERIDITH, Mich., Jan. 30.—The boiler in Herberson's saw and shingle mill exploded yesterday morning, killing two men and injuring six others. The building was completely torn to pieces and fragments of iron were bent and twisted into every shape and strewn about the premises.

Albert Finch, fireman, was thrown about forty feet and mangled beyond recognition.

George Bodder, shingle Sawyer, was hurled about 100 feet away, being instantly killed. The cause of the explosion was low water in the boiler.

HIS LAST SPEECH.

The Speech Delivered by Secretary Windom at the New York Banquet Just Before He Died.

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Responding to the toast: "Our Country's Prosperity—Dependent Upon its Instruments of Commerce," Mr. Windom said, just prior to his sudden death at the Delmonico banquet:

I am to speak briefly of the instruments of commerce in their relation to the wealth and prosperity of the country. The subject is very broad and my time very limited. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the two chief instrumentalities of commerce—transportation and money.

A nation's wealth and prosperity are usually in proportion to the extent and success of commerce and commerce itself is dependent upon the adequacy and adaptation of these two essential instrumentalities. The story of all civilized countries attests the fact that the nation best equipped in these respects rapidly becomes the most powerful and richest and the most prosperous. Our own country is no exception to the rule. Nation has ever fostered not only its internal and coastwise, but its foreign trade, and the resultant magnitude and prosperity of our domestic commerce is, I believe, without a parallel in the history of the world. We have more miles of railroad than all Europe, Asia and Africa combined. The floating force of the United States engaged in coastwise commerce and on our lakes and rivers is very far in excess of that of any other nation. Our increase in wealth from 1870 to 1890, as compared with that of Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Japan, China, India, and the United States, is as follows: Germany, \$1,750,000,000; Great Britain, \$1,750,000,000; France, \$1,750,000,000; Italy, \$1,750,000,000; Spain, \$1,750,000,000; Russia, \$1,750,000,000; Japan, \$1,750,000,000; China, \$1,750,000,000; India, \$1,750,000,000; and the United States, \$1,750,000,000.

Contrast these grand results of our liberally developed domestic commerce, operating upon our protected industries, with the present shameful condition of our foreign carrying trade. There was a time when we stood first among the nations in ship building, and Great Britain alone excelled us in ocean tonnage. Once 95 per cent. of our imports and 90 per cent. of our exports were carried in American boats, and our merchant marine became the boast of every citizen. But the story of the past few years is a story of decline. Our ship yards are comparatively silent and our flag has almost disappeared from the high seas. So strong had our position become under the protective policy of the first years of our nation's life, that our merchant marine continued to be prosperous so long as wooden vessels were the only vessels of ocean commerce and other nations refrained from heavy subsidies to their ships. But when wooden vessels gave place to iron steamships, and European Governments poured their contributions into the treasuries of their steam ship companies, the decadence of American shipping began and has continued ever since. In my judgment the remedy is plain and easily applied. If we would regain our lost prestige, reinstate our flag upon the ocean and upon the markets of the world to American producers, we must make the contest with the same weapons which have proved so successful in the hands of our rivals.

The folly and danger of depending upon our competitors for the means of reaching competitive markets can not be estimated. Suppose that for twenty-five years we had not a ship in all of our great foreign shippings, and reduced by that amount the payment of our bonded debt, should we not have been far better off than we are now? I regret to say that the uniform record of indifference, if not actual hostility, during the past half century has been a constant encouragement. In fact, the tendency of late has been to surrender to foreigners even our domestic commerce, rather than to assert ourselves upon the ocean. Discriminations of the most astonishing character have been made by Congress and the executive branch in favor of Canadian railroad lines and steamships against our own.

Presidents of the United States have repeatedly expressed the national humiliation and appealed to Congress to take action. The half of our rapidly vanishing merchant marine, but thus far have fallen on deaf ears. Let us hope that the urgent appeals of President Harrison on this subject may bear fruit in some well devised policy of protection and encouragement. It is essential to commerce that the currency with which it is conducted be adopted, both in quantity and quality, to the wants of trade as that the vehicles of transportation should be adapted to their purposes. The present monetary system is manifestly one of absolute unsoundness. Currency to meet the legitimate wants of trade, and no more; and that should have enough elasticity of volume to adjust itself to the necessities of those people. Could such a circulating medium be secured the gravest commercial disasters which threaten our future might be avoided. These disasters have always come when unusual activity in business has produced an abnormal demand for money, as in the autumn of 1890, when the movement of our immense crops. There will always be great danger at those times under any east iron system of currency, such as we now have. Had it not been for the panic of 1890 which ended the United States to disburse over \$75,000,000 in about two and half months last autumn, I am firmly convinced that the stringency in August and September would have resulted in a widespread financial ruin.

I am thoroughly convinced that a better method can be devised which will in a large measure protect our currency from the contraction in the hands of the people themselves. The opportunity for securing such a currency may be found in our bonds, and in our gold and silver reserves. It is a question of interconvertible bonds, bearing a low rate of interest, and always interchangeable for money at the will of the holder.

Believing that there is not enough of silver in the world to meet the needs of our business, I am an earnest believer in, and concede to no one a stronger desire than I feel for free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver, and I believe that the movement of our immense crops. There will always be great danger at those times under any east iron system of currency, such as we now have. Had it not been for the panic of 1890 which ended the United States to disburse over \$75,000,000 in about two and half months last autumn, I am firmly convinced that the stringency in August and September would have resulted in a widespread financial ruin.

How, then, will unlimited coinage either expand the circulation or enhance the value of silver? The greatest of present evils is the coinage insist that it shall not wait the slow process of mint operations, but that the printing press be set to work producing certificates to be used for silver bullion at \$1 for \$1 1/4. When this combination shall be reached, as it surely will be if unlimited coinage be adopted under such conditions, the too ardent and impetuous lovers of silver will sadly realize the truth uttered by the King of Israel: "That loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver."

Give us direct and ample transportation facilities under American flag and controlled by American citizens, a currency sound in quality and adequate in quantity and an international bank to facilitate exchange, and a system of reciprocity carefully adjusted within the lines of protection, and not only will our foreign commerce expand every year, but every American industry will be quickened and our whole people feel the impulse of a new and enduring prosperity.

Four Horse Thieves Shot While Resisting Arrest.
GRAND FORGE, Md., Jan. 31.—Word has just been received here that John Niles, a horse thief, has been shot in Montana along with three others while resisting arrest. The balance of the gang were arrested, among them George Niles, brother of John. John was formerly in the livery business in this city and left under a cloud. George was a farmer near Merrifield and had the reputation of being an exceptionally pious man until about a year ago when he was arrested and convicted of wheat stealing. He was admitted to bail and skipped to Montana.

THE DEAD SECRETARY.

The Remains of the Late Secretary of the Treasury Buried With Honors at Washington—Extensive Order Issued.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The President and the members of his Cabinet gathered at the Baltimore and Ohio railroad station yesterday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock for the purpose of receiving the remains of Secretary Windom, which were brought here in a special car attached to the regular train from Jersey City. The assemblage also included nearly all the leading public officials in Washington. All the bureaus, divisions and branches of the Treasury Department were represented by their principal officials and many of the clerks and subordinate employees. These all assembled at the Treasury Department at 4 o'clock and proceeded to the railroad station in a body. The Presidential party consisted of the President, Vice-President Morton, Secretary and Mrs. Blaine, Secretary Proctor, Postmaster-General Wamamaker, Secretary Noble, Secretary Rusk, General Schofield and Solicitor-General Taft.

When all was in readiness a procession was formed and moved out of the station in the following order: The body bearers with the casket on their shoulders, the President and Mrs. Blaine, the Secretary of War and the Postmaster-General, Rev. Dr. Hamlin, pastor of the Church of the Covenant, and Secretary Rusk, the Attorney-General and other distinguished persons.

Carriages were provided for all and the cortege, headed by mounted policemen, moved slowly by way of Pennsylvania avenue, Vermont avenue and Massachusetts to the Secretary's late residence, where the family were awaiting arrival.

The transfer of the remains from the station to the house was made quietly and with as little effort as display as possible. The great esteem felt for the deceased, however, was shown by the number and character of the assemblage that gathered to honor his memory.

The following executive order was issued yesterday evening through the Secretary of State and sent to all the other heads of departments:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1891.—Sir, Hon. William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, died suddenly last night in the city of New York at the hour of eleven minutes past 10 o'clock in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

This man passed away a man of pure life, an official of stainless integrity, distinguished by long and eminent service in both branches of Congress and by being twice called to administer the National finances. His death has caused deep regret throughout the country, while to the President and those associated with him in the administration of the Government it comes as a personal sorrow.

The President directs that all departments of the executive branch of the Government and the officers subordinate thereto shall manifest respect to the memory of the eminent citizen in a manner consonant with the dignity of the office which he has honored by his devotedness to public duty.

The President further directs that the Treasury Department in all its branches in this capital be draped in mourning for the period of thirty days, that on the day of the funeral the several executive departments shall be closed and that on all public buildings throughout the United States the National flag shall be displayed at half-mast. Very respectfully, JAMES C. HAZARD.

CHARLES BRADLAUGH DEAD.
The Noted English Freethinker and Member of Parliament Dead.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Charles Bradlaugh, member of Parliament for Northampton, who had been critically ill for some time, died at 6 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Bradlaugh was born in Hoxton, London, September 26, 1833. Owing to the extreme poverty of his parents, he ceased attending school before he was 11 years old. He developed an early taste for politics, for at the age of 15 he appeared as an orator before street audiences during the political troubles of 1847-8.

The origin of his atheistical opinions date from the same period. Studying to fit himself for a Sunday school exhibition before the Bishop of London, he became skeptical, and declared his inability to reconcile the Thirty-nine Articles with the Four Gospels. His father, it is alleged by the clergy, gave him three days in which to alter his opinions, on penalty of losing his situation. He accepted the penalty, and quitted the situation and his home forever. For a year he earned an inadequate support by selling coals on commission, and then, becoming slightly involved in debt, he enlisted in the service of the East India Company where he remained until a small legacy enabled him to purchase his discharge. He now secured a clerkship in a solicitor's office in London, and entered at once upon his life career of a political and atheistical writer and speaker. In 1859-60 he gained considerable notoriety by editing a journal called the Investigator, which was soon suspended for want of capital. When Italy was fighting for freedom he raised by his own exertions 100 guineas and sent them to Garibaldi. He visited Ireland, conferred with the advocates of home rule and raised his voice in their justification. Elected to Parliament in 1880 he was refused admittance because as an atheist he could not take the oath. After much haggling, he finally cut short the affair by applying for the "stewardship of her Majesty's Chiltern Hundreds," the common means by which an English citizen rid himself of representing an electoral district.

Evidently a Robbery.
ST. LOUIS, Jan. 31.—A quantity of letters, all of which had been opened, were found yesterday morning in a lumber yard. The postmarks were Brazil, Ind., Martinsville, Ill., and other points near the boundary line between Illinois and Missouri. Nearly all were directed to Chicago or some point near there, but the regular route for matter is by way of St. Louis and it is thought the robbery was committed here. As none of the mail was registered it is not known how much money was secured, but checks aggregating \$1,000 were found near the rest of the mail matter.

THE CHEROKEE STRIP.

Mass Convention at Arkansas City in Favor of Opening the Outlet—Resolutions Adopted.

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan., Jan. 30.—The Cherokee Strip mass convention held here yesterday was the largest assembly of the kind ever seen on the border. It was not in any sense a boomer convention, for it was almost entirely composed of earnest, practical business men and farmers.

Among the distinguished people present were Governor George W. Steele of Oklahoma, Hon. J. S. Emery of Lawrence, Congressmen-elect Simpson and Clover of this State, Hon. W. H. Clements of Wichita and Hon. Oscar Johnson of McPherson, who was representing a colony of Swedes numbering several hundred. Delegations were present from Wichita, Newton, Lawrence, Anthony, Copeland, Caldwell, Medicine Lodge, Winfield, Kingfisher, Parcell, Oklahoma City, Guthrie and many other places.

Mayor Clements of Wichita, was chosen chairman and Prof. D. R. Boyd secretary.

Judge Emery, of Lawrence, made the opening address and spoke at some length on the Indian and land questions. Governor Steele, of Oklahoma, followed with a short address, telling of the progress of Oklahoma and of the need of more lands for settlers.

Hon. Jerry Simpson, of Medicine Lodge, was next introduced and made the most eloquent speech of the day. He handled the question of Indian lands without socks and assured all that when in Congress he would always be found working for the homesteader and settler.

Hon. B. H. Clover, of Cambridge, made a short address.

A strong memorial to Congress, a part of which is as follows, was presented to the committee and unanimously adopted by the convention:

Whereas, The lands commonly known as the Cherokee Outlet lying immediately south of the State of Kansas, comprising over 6,000,000 acres of unoccupied land, are needed by the people of the United States for homes; and

Whereas, Said lands are no longer used by the Cherokee Nation as an outlet for their cattle, but have been abandoned and by treaty stipulation have been reverted to the use of the United States; and

Whereas, These lands have been illegally leased and never officially approved for several years to certain non-taxpaying syndicates of cattle kings by the Cherokee Nation, thus depriving the home industry of cattle raising by the taxpaying farmers of the Western States; and

Whereas, The American Government has appropriated many millions of acres of public land to railroads and other corporations, justice demands that this remnant of land be given to actual settlers where to build American homes; and Whereas, The American Congress has appropriated millions of dollars to improve the deep harbors of the Gulf by the withholding of this large domain of public lands for civilized and white settlement will detract largely from the benefit of said appropriations; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the Mansur and Perkins bill.

Second.—That we request the Kansas and Oklahoma delegations and our friends in Congress to make an determined effort to pass the Mansur bill.

Third.—That unless the Cherokee Nation immediately accepts the offer of the Commissioners appointed under the act of March 2, 1890, or that Congress fails to pass the Mansur bill, we will call upon the President of the United States, if it be found legal to do so, to proclaim the Outlet open to settlement and thus relieve the distress of thousands of homesteaders who are cramped upon the border and permitted to enter now would be able to make a crop this year.

Fourth.—That we protest against an organized raid upon said lands and call upon all law-abiding people to refrain from such disorders and to forfeit their homestead rights by joining an unlawful organization to take possession of these lands.

Fifth.—That we earnestly urge Congress to ratify and confirm the agreements made with the citizen band of Portawagon, and the absentee Shawnee Indians, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians, the Sac and Fox Indians and the Iowa Indians in Oklahoma Territory, and to make appropriations for carrying the same into effect and for other purposes.

Sixth.—That it is the sense of this mass meeting that the immediate passage of the Mansur or Perkins bill, will, by connecting us with civilization in the Territory, present the good of friendship between the Southern and Western States and turn a warlike to its proper channel upon the Southern coast.

Seventh.—That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the secretary of this meeting to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. G. H. Mansur and the Kansas and Oklahoma delegations to Congress.

GREAT EXPLOSION.

Ammonia Used in Artificial Ice Explodes at Chicago—Damage Very Heavy.

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—An explosion of anhydrous ammonia or ammonia gas used in the ice machines of the Western Refrigerating Company, at 227 to 231 Michigan street, at 12:05 o'clock this morning caused great loss of property and came near resulting in the death of three men. The occupants of the building at the time were Robert Hawley, the fireman; Joseph Broun, engineer, and George Hendricks. All three were in the engine room.

Fireman Tom Gasey, of truck No. 6, fell through a hatchway from the second story to the floor below and was seriously if not fatally injured. He was taken out unconscious and conveyed to Alameda Brothers' Hospital. He received an ugly gash in his right side and was internally hurt.

The loss in the building and contents is estimated at from \$175,000 to \$200,000, partially insured. Neither E. P. Baker nor H. W. Griswold, the secretary and president, could be seen. The estimated loss is as follows: Machinery, \$200,000; goods in store, \$50,000; building, \$40,000. It is safe to say that this is a conservative estimate, and that the loss will run over \$200,000.

MINERS IN PERIL.

Steps Taken to Smother a Raging Fire in a Mine With Eight Men Below.

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich., Jan. 30.—At about 6 o'clock last evening a part of the Chapin mine, the largest and most extensive mine in Michigan, caught fire at the sixth level and soon the fire had spread to an alarming extent. The smoke was soon pouring from four of the shafts and the tops of them were covered to prevent air from entering the mine and it is hoped by this means to smother the blaze.

Eight men are under ground, without any possibility of escape.